

Drama sketch

Education Sunday 2011

FIRM FOUNDATIONS

Cast

- Builder A (think Chuckle Brothers and you've got the idea!)
- Builder B
- A Surveyor – in a suit with a large role of paper/plans etc
- A cautious Church treasurer

Props

- wheelbarrow
- various building tools
- tape measure
- hard hats
- large paper plans
- T shirts for builders with "Grabbit and Run or 'Wheatabix the Builders' on the back

Introduction

The treasurer is sitting in the congregation (no one should know they are taking part!). Two builders with hard hats and a surveyor interrupt the service during a song. They come in measuring, carrying tools, and talking loudly.

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| Builder A | Now, the partition wall is going to go from this side of the church through to the other side...and it's going to be about... this high. |
| Builder B | Yep. This way? (taking the tape across the church via some of the congregation) |
| Surveyor | (looking at plans) Er ... yes, that's right. |
| Builder A | Now we have already made a good start. And we have been building a large wall across the centre of the staircase. |
| Surveyor | (looking at plans) A-huh. Excellent |
| Treasurer | (getting up from his seat) Ah, I was hoping to catch you. |
| Builder A | Well we were just about to have another tea break when the surveyor popped in. |
| Treasurer | Excellent...well...at the church meeting last week we were concerned at the cost of all this. We were wondering if there might be any way that you thought we could...cut corners so to speak. |

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| Builder B | Oh no. You can't cut corners – every building has got to have at least four corners – unless of course it's a lighthouse or something... |
| Builder A | No, he doesn't mean that. Do you? |
| Treasurer | No, of course not. I mean – can we put a ceiling on the expenditure? |
| Builder B | Of course, every room has got to have a ceiling – what are the people upstairs going to stand on! Where would you put the lights? |
| Builder A | No, he doesn't mean that either, do you! Do you? |
| Treasurer | No, of course not. What I mean is, how can we save money? |
| Minister | Er...excuse me...but we are having a service here. Can you do this some other time? I want to get on to the next song. |
| Surveyor | Sorry, but no (turning away). Anyway everything seems to be going according to plan. |
| Builder A | Yes, we should be finished in a couple of weeks' time. |
| Surveyor | You said on the phone that you think you can make some savings by using reclaimed bricks. |
| Builder B | O yes! WE are going to save you money (looking at treasurer) - £100s! |
| Treasurer | Are you? |
| Builder A | Oh yes. We have found a store of thousands of good quality bricks. |
| Treasurer | Are they cheap? |
| Builder B | Very cheap! And what's more... |
| Builder A | This is the good bit... |
| Builder B | ...they're absolutely free! |
| Treasurer | Excellent – saving us a load of money. |
| Surveyor | So where is this store of bricks. |
| Builder A | On site! |
| Builder B | Right here. |
| Builder A | Under your very noses so to speak! We were digging a trench around the building and noticed all these bricks all buried. |
| Treasurer | Amazing! |
| Surveyor | Buried? |
| Builder A | Yes, all stacked up underneath the church. We are just going to dig them out and recycle them! |

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| Surveyor | I am a bit concerned here .. did these bricks have cement around them? |
| Builder A | Only a bit. We'll soon clear it all off. |
| Surveyor | Where did you say these bricks are coming from? |
| Builder B | (smug) Underneath the church. You won't miss them. No one can see them. |
| Builder A | Haven't seen them for years I expect! |
| Surveyor | (incredulous) You mean you are taking them away from the foundations? |
| Treasurer | Is that important? |
| Surveyor | Important? You can't take bricks away from the foundations? |
| Builder A | Why not? Well what if we took away just 50? |
| Builder B | (agreeing) Yes, 50 won't make any difference will it. |
| Surveyor | No! |
| Builder A | See, I told you we can take more. How about 150? |
| Surveyor | 'No' means 'no you can't'. You mustn't. The building will crack and fall down! |
| Builder A | (disbelieving) No it won't – there are hundreds of bricks down there! |
| Surveyor | And they are all important! |
| Treasurer | All? Can't we take just a few hundred? It would save a lot of money. |
| Surveyor | Look, do you want this church to last or not? Then you have to maintain the foundations! Let me explain. |

Exit cast, still talking...

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| Builder A | Did I tell you I found all this wood in the church roof? |
| Builder B | No, is it any good? |
| Treasurer | ...and is it free? |

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